

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 1997-2
REPORT TO LEGISLATURE – FY 2003**

Fire Investigation, Education, and Training

Prepared by

**Criminal Investigation Division
Department of State Police**

Submitted to

**Members of the Senate and House Subcommittees on
State Police
As required by Sec. 701 of 2003 PA 149**

January 12, 2004

Executive Order

Executive Order 1997-2 transferred certain responsibilities to the Department of Consumer and Industry Services and the Department of Environmental Quality, as follows:

Department of Consumer and Industry Services:

- Plan review and fire safety inspection functions
- Fire inspector certification and training
- Fire alarm and fire suppression system installation, documentation, and certification
- Fire extinguishing compound use and approval
- Hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- The State Fire Safety Board

Department of Environmental Quality:

- Above Ground Storage Tank program
- Inspection of dry cleaning establishments

All other responsibilities of the **Fire Marshal Division** were retained, including but not limited to:

- Fire investigation
- Public education
- Fire incident reporting
- Imminent hazard abatement
- Training and education
- The Michigan Insured Fire Loss Reporting System
- Explosives permits
- Fireworks
- Fire investigation training to locals
- The Fire Fighters Training Council

Requirement for Report

This report was prepared pursuant to the directive of Act 149 of the Public Acts of 2003 (Michigan State Police Budget Act), specifically Section 701, which reads as follows:

Sec. 701. (1) The department shall prepare a detailed report and deliver it to the senate and house subcommittees on the state police not later than January 15, 2003.

(2) The report shall contain input from a delegate appointed from and by the following organizations:

- (a) Michigan fire chiefs association.
- (b) Michigan state fireman's association.
- (c) Michigan firefighter's union.
- (d) Michigan fire service instructors association.
- (e) Michigan fire inspectors society.
- (f) Michigan chapter of the international association of arson investigators.

(3) The report shall contain information about the quality and adequacy of service from the state fire investigation, education, and training under the reorganization of the fire marshal division responsibilities. The report shall be based on the performance of the fire marshal division in the performance of its fire safety duties during fiscal year 2002-2003.

Process

A letter was directed to the head of each of the organizations identified in the budget act (sample attached). The letter was sent March 17, 2003, and requested that comments be directed to our office no later than April 7, 2003. A follow-up e-mail was sent to the heads of each of the organizations asking them if they would like to provide an update by January 9, 2004.

The letter and e-mail requested information about the services provided by the Fire Marshal Division following full implementation of Executive Order 1997-2. The letter contained the text of the budget act requirement for the report, as well as an explanation that the "reorganization" refers to the reorganization that took place October 1, 1997.

Comments Received

As a result of the first mailing, one response was received from the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society (MFIS) and is attached. The Michigan State Fireman's Association (MSFA) response to the e-mail is also attached.

Fire Marshal Programs

Following is information about each of the specific programs for which the Fire Marshal Division was responsible for during FY2003:

Fire Investigation:

- The Fire Marshal Division had 19 specialist sergeants assigned to fire investigation responsibilities strategically located at 18 field offices statewide. They work under the supervision of a region supervisor.
- Investigators conducted origin and cause investigations of fires, related follow-up investigation, detection, and prosecution of fire related fraud investigations, arson awareness training, enforced fireworks and explosives laws, responded to hazardous materials incidents and requests for imminent hazard abatement, and provided consultation to fire and law enforcement authorities.
- The "Arson Tipline" (1-800-44ARSON) was administered by Fire Marshal Division headquarters. This statewide program gathers information in regard to arson fires. All tip information was recorded and forwarded to the proper investigating agency for follow-up.

Public Education:

The Fire Marshal Division adopted an aggressive Public Fire Education strategy to guide its efforts. Implementation of the strategy was based on information, guidance, and support provided by a Public Fire Education Advisory Committee which was made up of members of local fire departments from around the state. Key components included:

- An elementary school public fire safety education curriculum, *Safe At Home*, established as a baseline program, designed to be usable at little or no cost by any fire department in any size community in Michigan.
- A Senior Fire Safety Module for *Safe at Home*, designated to be used by fire departments in senior centers, apartment complexes, and assisted living facilities.
- Public education information published in *Fire TIES*, the monthly newsletter of the Fire Marshal Division and Fire Fighters Training Council.
- Displays of public education materials and information at fire association meetings.
- Fire safety news releases during holidays, Fire Prevention Week, Arson Prevention Week, and when significant events took place.
- Promotion of nationally recognized safety programs.

- Distribution of a minimal number of pamphlets and brochures.
- Support of a fire module for Teaching, Educating, And Mentoring (T.E.A.M.), a program managed by the Prevention Services Section, Special Operations Division, Michigan State Police.
- Issuance of alerts on unsafe products or practices to educate the public and the fire service.
- Support of a website containing public education materials.

Fire Incident Reporting:

- Michigan's 1,075 fire departments were required to report their activity to the Fire Marshal Division.
- Michigan was the first state to implement and go on-line with the new National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a state-of-the-art, internet-based, data collection system. Michigan leads the nation with the highest percentage of fire reporting. All fire departments in the state were converted to electronic filing effective January 1, 2003. This allowed for timely annual reports, as well as real time access to Michigan's data for training, investigation, and public education purposes.
- The data was used to identify trends in fire causes that were used in education efforts, for investigative purposes, and as the basis for changes in standards, codes, and statutes.

Imminent Hazard Abatement:

- The Fire Marshal Division continued to work with local fire departments in dealing with situations that exceeded the resources available locally.

Training and Education:

- The *Fire TIES* newsletter, primarily for the fire service, was published monthly and distributed to every fire department in the state.
- The Fire Marshal Division maintained an Internet website at www.michigan.gov/msp. The site contained valuable information for the fire service.
- The Fire Marshal Division was the Michigan distribution agency for the "*North American Emergency Response Guidebook*" utilized by every police, fire, and emergency medical responder in the state. The book provides detailed initial instructions to be followed in a hazardous materials incident.

The Michigan Insured Fire Loss Reporting System:

- Data on insured fire losses was entered into the system to be used primarily in the identification of arson-related fraud.
- The data can be compared to the National Fire Incident Reporting System as a further crosscheck on suspicious fires.

Explosives Permits:

- The Fire Marshal Division maintained a database of all explosives permits issued in the state.
- Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies access the information as needed for investigative and regulatory purposes. The database was used by law enforcement agencies in the investigation of incidents such as the Oklahoma City bombing.

Fireworks:

- Fire Marshal Division investigators play a key role in the investigation of fireworks incidents.
- Work continued on a proposed revision of the Fireworks Law, 1931 PA 328, as amended.
- Videotapes and articles updating law enforcement agencies on recognizing legal and illegal fireworks, and permits and standards for public display were developed and distributed.
- The division also published and distributed a fireworks guide for local government, fire, and law enforcement agencies throughout Michigan.

Fire Investigation Training to Locals:

- The following training programs were provided to local police and fire investigators on an on-going basis:
 - a) 80-hour Fire Investigation I—two schools annually (formerly Basic Fire Investigation). This program is nationally accredited.
 - b) 40-hour Fire Investigation II school (formerly Advanced Fire Investigation)
 - c) 32-hour Vehicle Fire Investigation school
 - d) 40-hour Follow-Up school
 - e) 40-hour Arson school (joint with the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators)
 - f) 32-hour Mobile Homes school (joint with MI Arson Prevention Committee)
 - g) 40-hour Prosecutors school—two schools annually (joint with MI Arson Prevention Committee)

Fire Fighters Training Council:

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council staff served the training needs of the state's more than 31,000 fire fighters and 1,075 departments and provided the following services:

- Prepared and published advisory standards for the selection of fire fighters
- Prepared and published training standards
- Established instructor qualifications and certification
- Established courses of study
- Evaluated instructors and schools
- Developed and administered certification examinations for new fire fighters
- Established regional training centers to assist departments with training
- Cooperated with state, federal, and local fire agencies for training of fire fighters
- Issued certificates of training and maintained individual records

Attachments (3)



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
LANSING



March 17, 2003

Fire Marshal Paul Dove
President, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Coldwater Fire Department
57 Division Street
Coldwater, Michigan 49036

Dear Fire Marshal Dove:

Executive Order No. 1997-2 took effect September 30, 1997, and transferred portions of the responsibilities of the Fire Marshal Division, Department of State Police, to the Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Office of Fire Safety, and the Department of Environmental Quality, Storage Tank Division. The Michigan State Police budget bill for each year after that has required a report on the transition.

The requirement is in our current budget act, Public Act 526 of 2002. The specific provision requires that the report be prepared and submitted to the Legislature no later than May 15, 2003. As in the past, we are requesting input from fire service organizations.

The section reads as follows:

Sec. 901 (1) The department shall prepare a detailed report and deliver it to the senate and house subcommittees on the state police not later than May 15, 2003.

(2) The report shall contain input from a delegate appointed from and by the following organizations:

- (a) Michigan fire chiefs association.*
- (b) Michigan state fireman's association.*
- (c) Michigan firefighter's union.*
- (d) Michigan fire service instructors association.*
- (e) Michigan fire inspectors society.*
- (f) Michigan chapter of the international association of arson investigators.*

(3) The report shall contain information about the quality and adequacy of service from the state fire investigation, education, and training under the reorganization of the fire marshal division responsibilities. The report shall be based on the performance of the fire marshal division in the performance of its fire safety duties during fiscal year 2002-2003.

Some clarification is in order.

1. We realize some of the organizations are not named correctly either because organization names have changed or because they were incorrect in the original law and have not been corrected.
2. The state's fiscal year referred to in the bill started October 1, 2002 and ends September 30, 2003. Because of the required reporting deadline of May 15, 2003, it will not be possible to report on performance for the entire fiscal year.

As in the past, we are interested in "How the Fire Marshal Division is doing?" Please consider the points listed in the act as well as any other suggestions. Your input is very important, and we will report it objectively to the legislature and consider it for organizational self-improvement.

Fire Marshal Paul Dove
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March 17, 2003

Please note that we have been given a deadline we must meet. In order for us to comply, please submit your comments to me no later than **Monday, April 7, 2003**. I would appreciate your reply even if you have no particular comments regarding our services.

So that we may have a written record of your response, please reply in writing to me at the address listed on the bottom of page one, fax (517) 322-2908, or e-mail sandst@michigan.gov.

We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



W. THOMAS SANDS, DETECTIVE FIRST LIEUTENANT
Acting State Fire Marshal
Fire Marshal Division

WTS:krt



Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

P.O. Box 193, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004-0193

President: Paul L. Dove

Vice President: Wally Schroeder

Secretary/Treasurer: Ronaki Farr

March 21, 2003

**Michigan State Police
Fire Marshal Division**
Attn: Acting Fire Marshal, Lt. W. Thomas Sands
General Office Building
7150 Harris Drive
Lansing, MI. 48913

RE: Request [EO 1997-2 / Act 526 of 2002 Section 901 (2 e) and (3)]

Dear Fire Marshal Sands,

The Michigan Fire Inspectors Society has enjoyed working with your division over the past years. The Fire Marshal's Division has provided exceptional services to our organization and it's members pertaining to:

- ☐ Public Education (Safe at Home)
- ☐ Training Opportunities
- ☐ Fire Investigative Services

One area of service deserving special recognition should be those services offered and delivered through the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Division Fire Investigation Unit and Educational Schools. Our evaluation of the quality of services and comprehensive training is second to none and we look forward to working with your division in the future.

In Fire Safety,

Paul L. Dove, CPPE / NCFI
Fire Marshal, Coldwater Fire Department
Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, President

C: Executive Board



International Fire Marshals Association

Michigan State Firemen's Association

Serving all firefighters of Michigan

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January 7, 2004

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Dear Lt. Tom Sands;

The Michigan State Firemen's Association has had good service from the Michigan State Police Fire Marshall Division. The entire board of control and many of our members are disappointed in the loss of many of the services that were provided by the Fire Marshall's Division.

We have found MSP/FMD to be responsive to Fire Investigation requirements and their work to exceptional, given the economic times. We found MSP/FMD participation in 2003 Fire Expo exceptional, and MSP-FMD involvement contributed largely to the success of the Expo. MSP/FMD responded to the needs of the Fire Service and did so with a professional approach. MSP/FMD communicated with the Fire Service all proposed changes to it's operation, and assisted in the transfer of partial duties to facilitate a smooth transition.

The personnel that I had dealings with at the many different levels and disciplines within MSP/FMD were always helpful and professional in their demeanor. We are looking forward to a continued good working relationship with the MSP/CID Fire Investigators in the future.

Thank you,



George Scrimger, President MSFA